MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know why Government did not consider the desirability of reducing the period of the vacation ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) Government did not want to go against the express opinion of the High Court.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was that to suit the convenience of the Judges and the lawyers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That may have influenced the High Court.

Export of gold from the State.

26. MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of gold exported from this country during the last two years?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Excise Commissioner has reported that no gold was exported through the customs houses in the State during the years 1106 and 1107.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Does this answer mean that if gold is exported from the country, Government are not aware of it?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): In the answer it is stated that the Excise Commissioner has reported that no gold is exported through the chowkeys.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): May I know if gold is exported from this country, Government would get any information regarding it?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The information of Government is that gold was not exported.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): That is to say, Government are not in possession of information that gold is exported?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware of any export of gold from Travancore.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is export of gold dutiable?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is the Customs Office bound to take account of articles that are not dutiable?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The chowkeys are expected to note even non-dutiable articles.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Because the customs authorities have not taken note of it, are Government convinced that no gold is exported?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The only information available to Government is that gold has not been exported.

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MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): I want to know if Government consider that information regarding the export of gold in these days of economic distress of any use to this State?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Whether the information is useful or not is a matter of opinion.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Are the Government aware that gold is being exported from the State?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Have they no information?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Do they consider it necessary to collect that information, regarding the export of gold from this country to other countries?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The information, so far available to Government, is that no gold has been exported. They have no reasons to doubt that information.

Sub-Registry Offices closed in 1106.

27. MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of Sub-Registry Offices closed in the year 1106; and

(*b*) the financial gain to the Government from closing them?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Three.

(*b*) Rs. 7,128 per annum.

Action on the report of the Minor Irrigation Committee.

28. MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the report of the Westerdale Committee on minor irrigation was received by the Government; and

(*b*) the action so far taken by them on this report?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The report was received on the 4th October 1931.

(*b*) (i) Instructious have been issued to the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries to the effect that agriculturists and planters should be warned against the evils resulting from the cultivation of grass lands and other forest lands adjoining sources of irrigation.

(ii) The recommendations in respect of amendment to the Irrigation Regulation and the rules to be issued thereunder, have been referred to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil and he is drafting a consolidated amendment as suggested.

(iii) The Land Revenue Commissioner has been asked to forward specific proposals to make the Remission Rules more elastic.

(iv) The other recommendations in the report are being considered.

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